

# Improving paediatric care in Sengerema Hospital

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## Feedback report to Dayalu foundation for previous support from the foundation of friends of Sengerema Hospital

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## Background information

In 2015 the foundation of friends of Sengerema Hospital (SVSH, [www.svsh.nl](http://www.svsh.nl)) requested support from Dayalu foundation for hiring a medical doctor. This request was done with the purpose of supporting and improving the neonatal care unit which was upgraded at multiple levels in 2015. In this year major renovations were done, neonatal care equipment was purchased, nursing staff was attracted and trained.

The most important thing missing was a dedicated doctor that could continue to supervise this program and support the mothers and dedicated nurses in providing good quality care. For this external funds were needed, as other sources were not available as explained in the original project proposal.

Therefore we were delighted to receive the good news in April 2016 that we would get funds from Dayalu foundation to hire a medical doctor for a period of 1,5 years. A period which was estimated to be sufficient for getting this doctor on the payroll of the government.

## Doctor Chuki Sunzu, an amazing doctor for neonatal and paediatric care

After the funds were received in may 2016, the Sengerema Designated District Hospital started looking for a medical doctor with a specific interest in paediatric care. It was tried to find someone local that was known to be dedicated to Sengerema and its patients.

This person was found to be doctor Chuki Sunzu. A 32 year old mother of 3 children that graduated in September 2016. She was known to the management of Sengerema hospital, as she was a local orphan that was sponsored by the Wamata foundation. This local Tanzanian foundation supports AIDS orphans with scholarships so they can continue to study. It was clear soon that she was a talented student and she managed to study for a medical degree.

During her medicine study she considered paediatrics the most interesting specialisation. So when she was asked how she felt about working in the paediatrics department in Sengerema, she



immediately took the chance. She started in November 2016 after graduating from her study as a medical doctor.

Working in the hospital she has played an important role in both the paediatrics department and the neonatal care unit. By doing daily rounds and supervising assistant medical officers on both wards, she has made a difference from day one. The hospital management was more than happy with her drive and ambition to help the patients in the wards.

While she was working there she participated in and received training from Dutch specialists in paediatrics, which has really increased the impact of these programs. The Dutch doctors (Lonneke Landzaat, Marjolijn Quaak and Milou van Ingen) were very enthusiastic about her drive and qualities in paediatric care. Since November 2017 Dr Sunzu is on pregnancy leave. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January she gave birth to her 4<sup>th</sup> child.



### Keeping quality in

As doctor Sunzu has shown to be of great additional value in both the paediatric department and the neonatal care unit, the hospital is determined to retain her in the hospital. Unfortunately the hospital has not succeeded in securing the funds for this. Because of changes in the political situation the government has not been hiring new staff for more than two years. Other options which were available in the past are not available anymore. Despite this setback the hospital has decided they will try to continue to pay her wages. This will be paid from income through cost sharing and donors if this is available.



Towards the future doctor Sunzu has expressed the ambition to become a paediatrician, which is a 3 year specialisation in Tanzania. As doctor Sunzu is a local candidate with strong roots in Sengerema district, she seems to be a very good candidate. This is supported by the hospital, who have a strong desire to have a paediatrician in the hospital. As the paediatrics department has 8000 admissions annually and the neonatal care department has 1500 admissions annually, there is

an urgent need for a paediatrician.

Currently no funds are available for this, but the foundation of friends of Sengerema Hospital and Sengerema hospital will try to raise funds for this in the next years.

### **Financial statement**

The funds were received in 3 batches: Tsh 8.440.000; Tsh 8.260.000; Tsh 9.024.866

Total: Tsh 25.724.866

The costs for the wages for doctor Sunzu have been the same from beginning to the end. The monthly expenses to the hospital were Tzs 1.480.000.

Therefore the wages can be paid for 17,4 months from the received budget. At the beginning of 2018 there was still budget for 3 month left. Starting april 2018 the hospital will try to pay for the wages of doctor Sunzu.

### **Conclusion**

Both Sengerema Hospital and the foundation of friends of Sengerema Hospital feel gratitude for the support of Dayalu foundation for this project. Thanks to the support received Sengerema Hospital has managed to attract and retain a high quality medical doctor with a lot of potential and ambition for herself and the hospital. During the time that she is now active she has made a significant impact on patient care in the pediatrics and the neonatal care department, helping vulnerable patients on a daily basis.